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**Chapter Four: philosophy: reflections on the essence of education**

**Write a brief reflection: What did you find most surprising to todays educational contexts?**

Throughout chapter four there were many aspects of education and todays society within the education system that I found interesting, and some things, even surprising. From the start of the chapter, the concept of cheating was discussed along with its increasing acceptance among students. The honest truth is that many students cheat, in which some do it regularly. The chapter than goes on to say that the competition and workload of many schools and classes is so much that kids turn to cheating and they do not even think of the consequences anymore. “ Its pretty much normal that kids are cheating on tests” ( Amanda Cendejas). This painful truth arises the question: what is wrong with the education system that the majority of students turn to cheating? I believe that some teachers aid in this issues continuation by either their lack of observance or care towards the problem at hand. Other roots to the issue could be the pressures students feel to succeed, and the competition along with some intense workloads. The issue of cheating is also made easier to the fact that today’s generation is given so much technology at their fingertips. Technology makes cheating almost to hard to resist for some students. When temptations are close and constant, it makes them harder to stray away from. Morals within students on the matter of their education have become skewed because of many factors. This has resulted in students having “a different view of what’s OK”.

Another section of the chapter that I found interesting was the concept and application of schools of philosophy in education. I related with the schools of philosophy known as idealism. Idealism holds that ideas or concepts are the essence of all that is worth knowing. While I do not agree with everything that idealism has to offer, its application within the education system is beneficial and unique. Idealists in education emphasize the methods of lecture, discussion and imitations. They believe that clear thinking is important for uncovering ideas. For this reason there is also a push for asking questions that spark thought. I think “thinking” is something that is gradually decreasing in students. The educational system has driven kids to work for grades, not for their own personal growth. Because of this, learning has become less of learning and more of memorizing. The emphasis on lectures along with discussion and imitation incorporates different aspects of learning, which is vital to truly retaining knowledge for the students. The more variety there is within the approaches of teaching, the more likely the students are to learn.